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## Second Committee

**Summary record of the 36th meeting**
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Wednesday, 12 December 2012, at 4 p.m.

*Chair*: Mr. Talbot ..... (Guyana)

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*The meeting was called to order at 4.25 p.m.*

**Agenda item 17: Information and communications technologies for development** (*continued*) (A67/207; A/C.2/67/L.36 and A/C.2/67/L.61)

*Draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.61: Information and communications technologies for development*

1. **The Chair** invited the Committee to take action on the draft resolution, submitted by Mr. Mero (United Republic of Tanzania), Vice-Chair of the Committee, on the basis of informal consultations on draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.36. He took it that the Committee agreed to waive the 24-hour provision under rule 120 of the rules of procedure. The draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

2. **Ms. Klausa** (Poland), speaking in her capacity as facilitator of the informal consultations, said that in the ninth preambular paragraph the words "set" and "make" should be replaced by "sets" and "makes"; in the thirtieth preambular paragraph the names of the host countries Lithuania, Kenya and Azerbaijan should be inserted after their respective capitals; in the thirty-second preambular paragraph the acronyms EuroDIG, AMI and TASIM should be inserted after the names of the projects to which they referred; in the sixth line of paragraph 20 a new sentence should begin after the word "mandate", reading "When convening the working group, the Chair should also take into consideration the already scheduled meetings on the CSTD's calendar. The working group should report to the Commission at its seventeenth session, in 2014, as an input to the overall review of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society"; and in paragraph 21, a comma should be inserted after the word "Governments" and the comma after the word "namely" should be removed.

3. **The Chair** asked the facilitator whether her intention was also to add the name of the host country Greece after the name of its capital in the thirtieth preambular paragraph.

4. **Ms. Klausa** (Poland), speaking in her capacity as facilitator of the informal consultations, replied that that was the intention.

5. *Draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.61, as orally corrected, was adopted.*

6. **Mr. Latriche** (Observer for the European Union) said that information and communications technologies gave the international community new opportunities to build an inclusive information society and achieve development goals. Access to the Internet was essential to development. His delegation therefore called on stakeholders to contribute actively to the 2014-2015 review of the World Summit on the Information Society. It reaffirmed its support for multi-stakeholder Internet governance and the Internet Governance Forum, which had brought together business, civil society, Governments, international organizations, parliamentarians, the technical community and academic experts to exchange views and best practice. It looked forward to engaging actively in the working group on enhanced cooperation referred to in the draft resolution. It regretted the failure to include in the text a reference to the need to protect human rights online, as affirmed in Human Rights Council resolution 20/8.

7. **Mr. Tawlah** (Saudi Arabia) said that his delegation had hoped that the working group on enhanced cooperation would be established in line with the 2005 Tunis Agenda for the Information Society. The working group should be unlimited in scope and all countries should consult stakeholders as required. The working group should discuss how to implement enhanced cooperation, not merely examine the mandate of the World Summit.

8. **Mr. Jaiswal** (India) said that his delegation welcomed the adoption of the draft resolution by consensus but felt that, as the international community started implementing the agenda approved at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), the text could have better captured the increasing relevance of information and communications technologies to development.

9. During the negotiations on the draft resolution, there had been an understanding that a high-level event led the by the General Assembly would be convened on the World Summit review. His delegation therefore looked forward to discussions on that event at the current General Assembly session; those discussions should be concluded before 2013 as called for in the draft resolution. Review processes undertaken by international organizations were valuable and should contribute to the World Summit review.

10. *Draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.36 was withdrawn.*

11. *The Committee took note of the note of the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization on "Communication for development programmes in the United Nations system" (A/67/207).*

**Agenda item 18: Macroeconomic policy questions** (*continued*)

**(a) International trade and development** (*continued*) (A/C.2/67/L.23 and A/C.2/67/L.60)

*Draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.60: International trade and development*

12. **The Chair** invited the Committee to take action on the draft resolution, submitted by Mr. Stefanile (Italy), Vice-Chair of the Committee, on the basis of informal consultations on draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.23. He took it that the Committee agreed to waive the 24-hour provision under rule 120 of the rules of procedure. The draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

13. **Mr. Iziraren** (Morocco), speaking in his capacity as facilitator of the informal consultations, said that the draft resolution emphasized convergence on the political message regarding international trade and development. In the eighth preambular paragraph, the word "Rio+20" should be inserted after "United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development" and the initial letter of each word in the title of the Conference's outcome document should be capitalized; in paragraph 3 "the sustainable economic development of least developed countries" should be replaced by "least developed countries' sustainable economic development"; and in paragraph 10 the text following "Net Food-importing Developing Countries" should be deleted.

14. *Draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.60, as corrected, was adopted.*

15. *Draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.23 was withdrawn.*

**Agenda item 21: Implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)** (*continued*) (A/C.2/67/L.22 and A/C.2/67/L.59)

*Draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.59: Implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)*

16. **The Chair** invited the Committee to take action on the draft resolution, submitted by Ms. Hodžić (Bosnia and Herzegovina), Rapporteur of the Committee, on the basis of informal consultations facilitated by Ms. Fassio Canuto (Italy) on draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.22.

17. **Ms. de Laurentis** (Secretary of the Committee), making an oral statement in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure, said that pursuant to paragraph 9(b) of the draft resolution the first meeting of the Preparatory Committee would add six meetings with interpretation in the official languages to the workload of the Department of General Assembly and Conference Management, entailing additional requirements of $66,600 in 2014, while the request for documentation would add the translation of 12 documents into the official languages and report-writing services, entailing additional requirements of $511,600.

18. Pursuant to paragraph 9(c), the second Preparatory Committee meeting would add 10 meetings with interpretation in the official languages to the workload of the Department of General Assembly and Conference Management, entailing additional requirements of $334,700 in 2015, while the request for documentation would add the translation of eight documents into the official languages and report-writing services, entailing additional requirements of $150,100.

19. Pursuant to paragraphs 9(d) and 10, a statement on the conference services required for the third Preparatory Committee meeting and the Habitat II Conference itself would be submitted when the arrangements for those meetings were clearer.

20. Pursuant to paragraph 14, the Secretary-General would provide information regarding the non-conference services required for the preparatory process and the Conference itself once the UN-Habitat Governing Council took a decision on the proposal of the Secretary-General of the Conference, to be submitted to the Governing Council at its twenty-fourth session.

21. If the General Assembly adopted the resolution, therefore, additional resources of $1,063,000 would be required for conference services under Section 2 of the 2014-2015 programme budget.

22. **Ms. Hodžić** (Bosnia and Herzegovina), Rapporteur of the Committee, said that in the fifth preambular paragraph the words "inter alia" should be inserted after "such as"; the words "Habitat III" should be inserted at the end of the eleventh preambular paragraph; the second and third lines of paragraph 6 should be corrected to "assessing accomplishments to date, addressing poverty and identifying and addressing new and emerging challenges"; in paragraph 9, the words "Decides, while remaining" should be deleted from the start of the paragraph and the word "decides" should be inserted before "that", the last word of the paragraph; in the seventh line of paragraph 11, the word "the" should be deleted before the words "improved participation of local authorities"; in the tenth preambular paragraph, the dates of the sixth session of the World Urban Forum should be changed to "from 1 to 6 September 2012"; in paragraph 6, footnote reference 3 should be changed to footnote reference 5 and footnote reference 4 should be changed to footnote reference 3.

23. **Mr. Laguna** (Mexico) asked, in the Spanish text, in paragraph 6(a), for "nuevas dificultades" to be deleted and replaced by "nuevos retos" and, in paragraph 6(b), for "nuevo programa urbano" to be deleted and replaced with "Nueva Agenda Urbana".

24. *Draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.59, as corrected, was adopted.*

25. **Ms. Kurultay** (Turkey) said that his Government would be honoured to host the third United Nations conference on housing and sustainable urban development (Habitat III) in 2016.

26. **Ms. Nemroff** (United States of America) said that her delegation welcomed the support in the draft resolution for the ongoing review of UN-Habitat to improve transparency, accountability, efficiency and effectiveness, but was disappointed that the budget estimates had once again been provided to the Member States at the last minute rather than in a transparent way during the negotiations. The extensive, unexpected and unsubstantiated resources requested in the Secretariat's oral statement ran counter to the spirit of the draft resolution, which called for the efficient use of resources at the planning stage. Her delegation called on the Secretariat to provide a credible estimate based on the Conference arrangements set out in the text. It nevertheless supported the draft resolution.

27. **Mr. Devanlay** (Observer for the European Union) said that his delegation reiterated the importance of the urban agenda both through the UN-Habitat secretariat and in the lead-up to Habitat III. It understood that the oral statement of programme budget implications presented before the adoption of the draft resolution contained estimates resulting from an overly broad interpretation of rule 153 of the General Assembly rules of procedure. Those estimates were subject to revision following the Secretary-General's submission of the proposed 2014-2015 budget to the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions and the Fifth Committee. His delegation believed that some of the estimates could not be considered requirements under the draft resolution. The estimates should not be perceived as having been endorsed by the Member States. Increased transparency regarding budgetary figures should be provided during rather than after negotiations on draft resolutions.

28. **Ms. Peterson** (Canada) said that his delegation was pleased to join the consensus on the draft resolution but was concerned by the oral statement of programme budget implications, which did not reflect the decisions taken by Member States in the draft resolution. It was disappointed by the lack of budgetary clarity from the Secretariat during the informal consultations. The figures in the oral statement could be considered only as estimates and were subject to revision following discussion in the Fifth Committee. They should not be perceived as having been endorsed by the Member States.

29, **Mr. Imanishi** (Japan) said that his delegation was pleased to join the consensus on the draft resolution but regretted that the information regarding costs had not been made available to the Member States during the consultations. His delegation understood that the figures in the statement were only estimates subject to revision following the Secretary-General's submission of the proposed 2014-2015 programme budget to the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions and the Fifth Committee, and should not be perceived as having been endorsed by the Member States. In considering the proposed 2014-2015 programme budget, his delegation would not be bound by the oral statement.

30. *Draft resolution A/C.2/67L.22 was withdrawn.*

*The meeting rose at 5.15 p.m.*